



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

## **Rolling Perspective**

*News from the Office of Access and Functional Needs*

**December 2016**

**Issue 4**

### **Introduction**

Welcome to *Rolling Perspective*, the quarterly newsletter by the Office of Access and Functional Needs (OAFN) aimed at keeping you informed and up to date on the great work our office does! Rolling Perspective highlights our efforts to integrate access and functional needs (AFN) within the State's emergency management systems. In this issue, we reflect on our integration efforts over the past sixteen months and look ahead to what's coming next. Join us for the ride as we share our work with you!



OAFN Management Team – Vance Taylor, Chief  
and LaCandice McCray, Program Manager

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## Message from the Chief

On August 3, 2015, I was sworn-in as Chief, Office of Access and Functional Needs (OAFN) at the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). At the ceremony, surrounded by family, friends and colleagues, I felt gratitude for the opportunity to serve and responsibility for the enormity of the task.

Coming into the position, I knew that, historically, individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs have been disproportionately impacted by disasters. I knew that we have been underrepresented, were more likely to suffer loss of life, to be unable to evacuate and to need accessible resources (which are often in scarce supply) during disasters. Knowing the reality of the situation and recognizing that the purpose of OAFN is to tackle these issues head on; I took the oath to "faithfully discharge" my duties with reverence and respect.

I have, and continue, to relish the privilege of serving. Cal OES, along with its local, state and federal partners, puts in a tireless and continuous effort to advance the mission of integrating access and functional needs within the State's emergency management systems.

In an attempt to highlight the amazing progress, achievement and work that has taken place over the past sixteen months; this issue of *Rolling Perspective* is our chance to look back at what we've accomplished and look forward to what's coming next!

In reviewing the past and looking forward to the future we hope to underscore that – at the end of the day – and in all we do; we succeed or fail together.

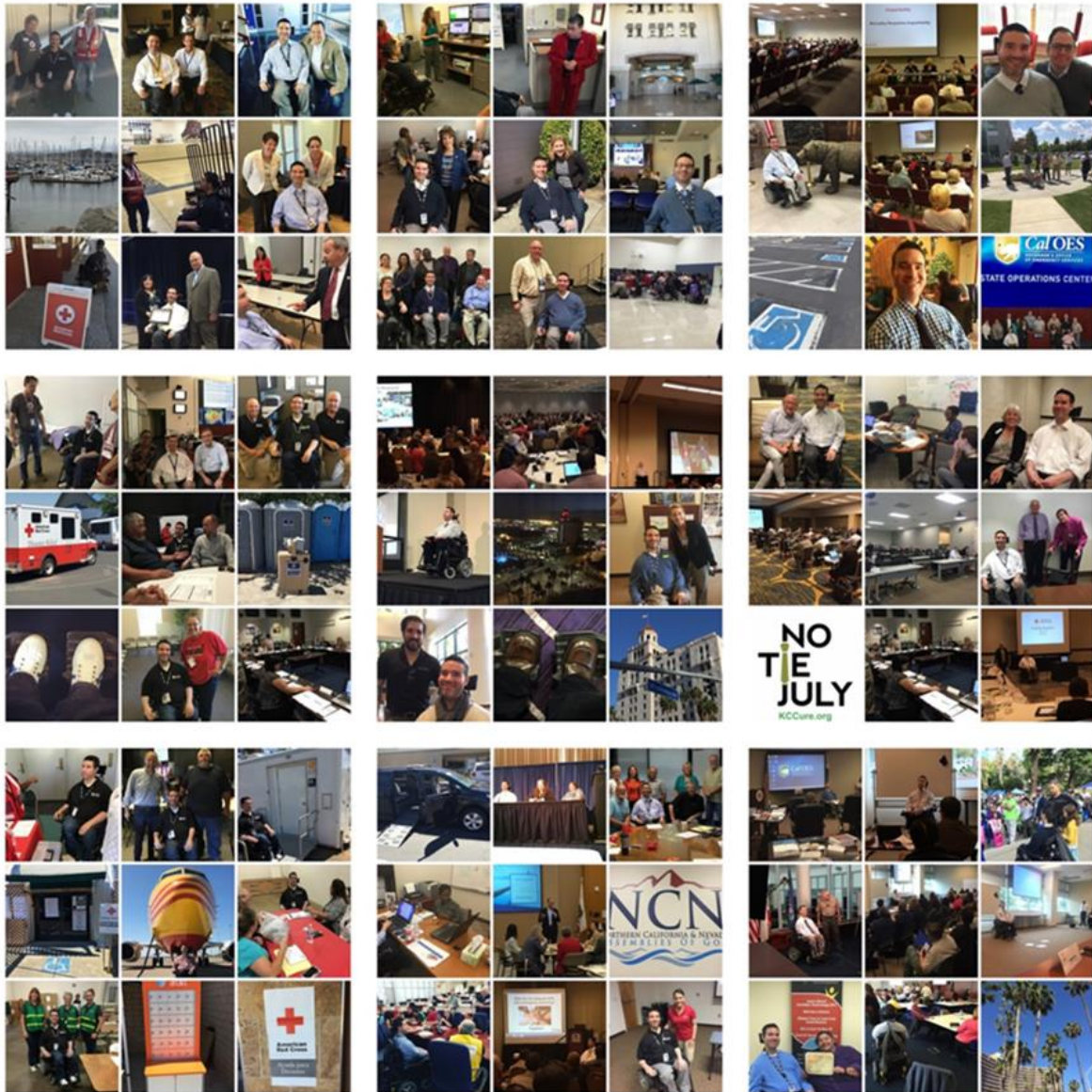
It's a shared responsibility and something for which I continue to be grateful.



Vance Taylor being sworn-in as Chief, OAFN by Cal OES Chief-Deputy Director, Nancy Ward

## A Look at What We've Done...

At Cal OES, we integrate access and functional needs into the State's emergency plans, GIS projects, guidance documents, training protocols and every facet of what we do because we are committed to the whole community. One team, one fight.



A photo collage of OAFN activities and engagements over the past sixteen months



## Integration & Planning



Bay Area Catastrophic Earthquake Plan Rollout – Alameda, CA

One of the key ways we integrate access and functional needs into the State’s emergency management systems is by working collaboratively with emergency managers and planners to develop its emergency plans. In the past sixteen months, OAFN has provided guidance and feedback on the following planning initiatives:

- The Bay Area Earthquake Plan
- The Behavioral Health Disaster Planning ConOps
- The California Disaster Recovery Framework
- The Northern California Catastrophic Flood Response Plan
- The Southern California Mass Care and Shelter Analysis
- The State Emergency Plan
- The State Warning Plan

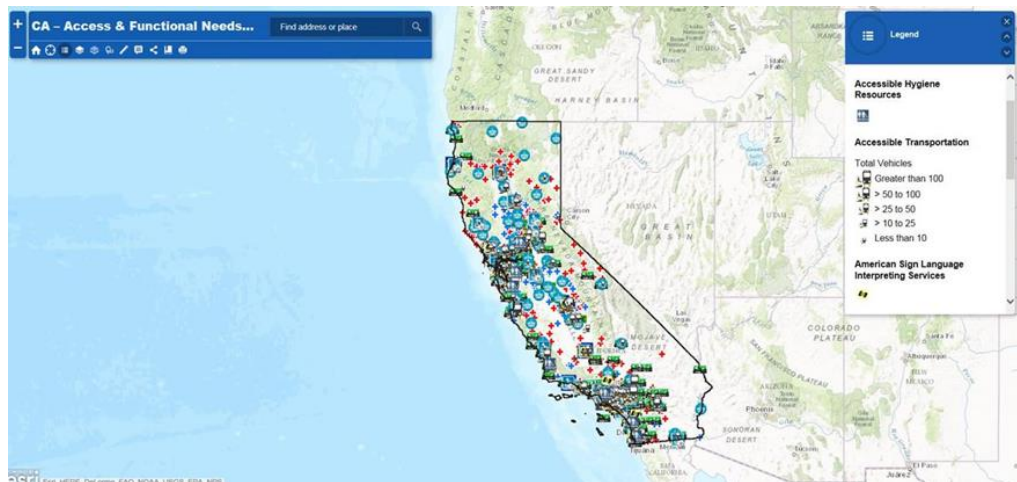
Integrating access and functional needs as plans are being developed – as opposed to tacking it on at the end – leads to the creation of better, more inclusive products that benefit everyone.

### AFN Web Map

OAFN developed an interactive [web map](#) that contains geographically searchable AFN-relevant information categorized into areas such as:

- Accessible hygiene resources (e.g. porta potties, showers and hand washing stations);
- Assistive technology providers;
- Accessible transportation providers;
- American Sign Language interpreting services;

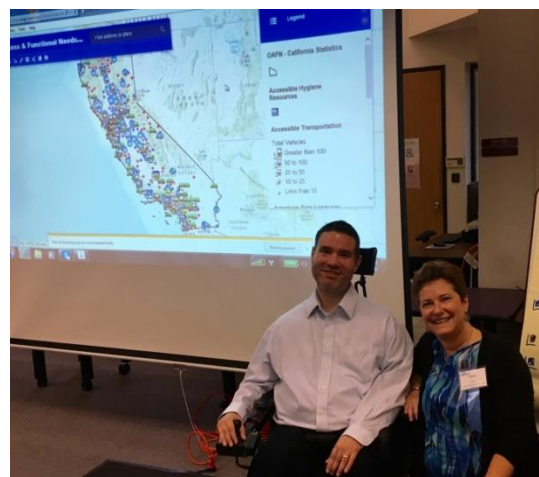
- Translators;
- Independent Living Centers; and
- Regional Centers.



The Cal OES AFN Web Map

The web map, which is available through the Cal OES website, enables the agency, emergency managers and its partners to identify locate and contact AFN-related resource providers throughout California. Jurisdictions can build out the tool by submitting additional local resources for inclusion in the web map, thus ensuring it will become a truly comprehensive asset. The web map empowers planning and preparedness by taking the guesswork out of quickly identifying and locating the AFN-related resources needed during response efforts.

OAFN is in the process of demonstrating the tool for emergency managers in each county. If you are interested in a demonstration, [email OAFN](#).



Presenting on the web map with Sheri Burns, Executive Director of the Silicon Valley Independent Living Center

OAFN carried the “integration through innovation” spirit forward in its disaster response efforts.

## Response



With CERT at the Blue Cut Fire on August 18, 2016 in Victorville, CA

OAFN responded to every major fire in 2015/16 and:

- Worked with the American Red Cross to ensure shelters were accessible;
- Secured accessible showers, porta-potties and hand washing stations for use at shelters;
- Helped utilize ASL interpreters at town halls, press events and Recovery Centers; and
- Coordinated with local agencies to provide accessible transportation to/from shelters and Local Assistance Centers.

OAFN also developed and leveraged a vibrant, dynamic partnership of resource providers made up of independent living centers, disability advocacy groups and numerous other stakeholders to deliver the following to disaster survivors with disabilities or access and functional needs:

- Power chairs;
- Manual wheelchairs;
- Walkers, canes, rollators; and
- Other assistive technologies.

Next, OAFN collaborated with our partners to update the Cal OES Active Shooter Awareness Guidance to ensure it addressed access and functional needs.

## Updated Cal OES Active Shooter Awareness Guidance



AFN Active Shooter Workgroup Members (pictured left to right): Tamara Rodriguez, Teresa Favuzzi, Vance Taylor, Aaron Carruthers, Jaqueline Nguyen, Mona Bonnty, Tracy Stocks, Jay Lytton, LaCandice McCray, Dan Dailey, Tim Britt, David Forderer and Wayne Glusker

Following the active shooter attack in [2015 at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, California](#), initial reports indicated it was an assault on the disabled. Though we later learned this was not the case; the thought of an attack on individuals with disabilities raised serious concerns over the current lack of guidance regarding the access and functional needs (AFN) considerations associated with an active shooter attack.

To address this issue, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services brought together a work group consisting of representatives from law enforcement, the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, emergency managers, the California Specialized Training Institute and other disability stakeholders to update its Active Shooter Awareness Guidance.

The [revised guidance](#), which is the first-of-its-kind to integrate access and functional needs considerations, has been completed.

In addition to being publicly available, the updated guidance has been transmitted to FEMA's Emergency Management Institute for incorporation within the active shooter awareness trainings the agency sponsors nationwide.

We encourage you to share the guidance with your respective constituencies and stakeholders.



## National Disability Employment Awareness Month



Promoting inclusion at an NDEAM event on October 3, 2016

October was [National Disability Employment Awareness Month \(NDEAM\)](#). NDEAM is a national campaign to raise awareness about disability employment issues and celebrate the contributions of workers with disabilities. The theme for 2016 was "Inclusion works." OAFN participated in various events throughout the month to promote awareness and acknowledge the contributions of our partners with disabilities in the workforce. At these events, Vance Taylor shared personal stories of growing up with expectations, first jobs, and the individuals and accommodations that have supported his success.

### Looking Ahead...

The success of OAFN is in its partnerships. These partnerships have culminated into various outreach events, speaking engagements, and presentations about AFN integration for the whole community. Whether addressing colleagues from around the world at the International Association of Emergency Managers conference in Savannah, Georgia or conducting briefings throughout the Cal OES regions, OAFN is becoming an ever-present part of the emergency management landscape.

In addition to continuing to do outreach, OAFN will also move forward with the following projects and initiatives:

### The OAFN Resource Library

OAFN is developing a central, online repository/clearinghouse of AFN-related planning information. The repository, which will reside in the new ["Library" section](#) of the OAFN website,

will be free and available to our partners and the public. The resources will cover a wide array of AFN-specific topics and needs.

Whether stakeholders are looking for information about effective communication, sheltering or integration; the OAFN library will be the one-stop-shop to finding the best available resources.



### **Disaster Response Interpreter (DRI) Training**

OAFN's Disaster Response Interpreter (DRI) program certifies American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters to provide services at shelters, town halls, press conferences and community events during emergencies and to standardize the practice of having on-screen ASL interpreting at all statewide press forums. The DRI course consists of modules designed to give interpreters an idea of what to expect in a high stress shelter situation, as well as what to expect during a statewide press conference.



Molly Bowen, NorCal Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing conducting training at DRI

OAFN most recently sponsored a DRI training delivery on November 5<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. The next course delivery will take place on February 11, 2017 in Anaheim. For more information or to register, email [Linell Walker](#).

### **Getting It Right Workshop**

OAFN is partnering with the Pacific ADA Center, Portlight Strategies, American Red Cross, the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers and FEMA to organize and host a conference and exclusive one-day California-specific summit in 2017 focused on identifying the barriers to fully integrating access and functional needs within response operations and best practices for whole community inclusion.

### **Hospital Emergency Response Guidebook for Individuals with Access and Functional Needs**



Hospital Guidebook workgroup on December 4, 2016 in Pomona, CA

OAFN and the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center have partnered on a new groundbreaking project to create an inclusive new Hospital manual aimed at offering direction and guidance toward meeting the access and functional needs of patients, associates, volunteers and visitors in a disaster. This is a joint public/private sector endeavor involving a taskforce comprised of local, state and national disability and public health-related stakeholders.

When completed, the handbook will be distributed throughout the healthcare industry in California and a standing committee will be created to regularly expand and update what is intended to be a living document.

The project will be presented to The Joint Commission (TJC) at its national emergency management conference in 2017, with the ultimate goal of incorporating the needs of individuals with disabilities into TJC's emergency management standards worldwide.

OAFN plans, prepares, integrates and works its way through the complex emergency management landscape in tandem with our local, state and federal partners. And in so doing, we become a safer, more resilient California.

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